

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is requested. Claims 1-36 are pending, with claims 1, 9 and 29 being independent.

PRIOR ART REJECTIONS

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(B)

The Examiner continues to reject claims 1-36 under 35 USC §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,213,391 ("*Lewis*"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner rebuts Applicants arguments stating in part:

Lewis teaches that once authorization has been established, the users' identification value may be converted into one or more access codes that may be used to provide access. Lewis teaches that these access codes may be used to access group accounts. This allows for the possibility of more than one user having access to the same account. Thus, Examiner concludes that since more than one user may be assigned to a single account, the access code pertaining to that account is assignable to a plurality of users.¹

Applicants disagree with the Examiner's statement. The mere fact that *Lewis* allows for "the possibility of more than one user having access to the same account," does not indicate nor suggest that the same access code is assigned or assignable to a plurality of users as would be the case assuming *arguendo* that *Lewis*' access code was the same as the "role signature," of claim 1. In fact, assigning the same access code to multiple users to access the same

¹ Office Action, p. 2 (March 8, 2007).

account would actually decrease security of the group accounts in *Lewis*, and thus, be in direct contrast to the purpose of *Lewis*,² thereby leading one to conclude that the same access code is not assigned or assignable to a plurality of users in *Lewis*. Such a contrast with the purpose of *Lewis* also leads one of ordinary skill in the art away from assigning the same access code to a plurality of users, and thus, *Lewis* actually teaches away from claim 1.

Moreover, the Examiner's understanding of *Lewis* is incorrect. *Lewis* does not teach that access codes are assignable to multiple users. To the contrary, group accounts are assigned to multiple users. That is, in *Lewis* a digital representation of a user's identification value is converted into one or more access codes, which provide access to one of a plurality of secure accounts.³ This allows for the existence of individually secure accounts on a user card, or in other words, the ability of a user to access multiple accounts using the same card. The cited portion of *Lewis* does not teach or suggest that the same access code is assigned to multiple users.

For at least the foregoing reasons, *Lewis*' access code does not constitute the "role signature," claim 1 because the access codes in *Lewis* are not "assignable to a plurality of users," as required by claim 1. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit claim 1 is patentable over *Lewis*. Claims 9 and 29 are also allowable over *Lewis* for at least reasons somewhat similar set forth above with regard to claim 1. Claims 2-8, 10-15, 17-28 and 30-36 are in condition for

² See, e.g., *Lewis* at 3, ll. 37-39 ("It is an object of the present invention to provide an accurate electronic personal identification system which offers improved security...")

³ See, e.g., *Lewis* at column 4, lines 13-17.

allowance at least by virtue of their dependency from independent claims 1, 9 or 29.

CONCLUSION

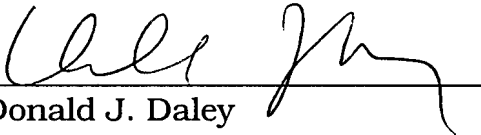
In view of the foregoing remarks, reconsideration and allowance of the claims of the present application is requested.

If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone Andrew M. Waxman, Reg. No. 56,007, at the number of the undersigned listed below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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